

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 4, please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] The process of comparing ACLs can be cumbersome and labor-intensive. As mentioned, entries in an ACL that appear to be different may be functionally equivalent with respect to how they affect communication packets passing through the network. Furthermore, entries may be ordered differently, making determination of equivalence between two ACLs even more difficult.

On pages 10-11, please replace paragraph [0044] with the following amended paragraph:

[0044] According to a method such as described in FIG. 1, each entry in an ACL may be identified as one or more sub-entries that state the same policy action as the corresponding ACL entry. Sub-entries are determined by identifying dimensional ranges of entries that are overlapping and non-overlapping with dimensional ranges of other entries. One sub-~~entry~~entry is defined for each dimensional range that does not overlap the dimensional ranges of other sub-entries. In the case that dimensional ranges of several entries overlap one another, only one sub-entry is defined for the overlapped area whose policy action is the same as the first overlapping entry. Therefore, whenever two entries overlap, a conflict rule may be implemented that states the policy action of the sub-entry for the overlapped area is always defined according to the first entry of the two entries if the two entries have different policy actions. [[.]]